

National Wildlife Visitor Center Scout Program Links Index

The following pages identify rank and badge requirements and suggest how to use NWVC resources to meet them:

Girl Scouts

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National Wildlife Visitor Center

Scout Program Links

Daisy Girl Scouts

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Requirements filled according to the 1993 Guide for Daisy Girl Scout Leaders.

Scrapbook Links to Activities:

33. - 38. "Things I See Around Me" through "Things I can Touch Around Me"

Come to the refuge and walk through the Wisdom of Wildness exhibit, walk the trails, look on the patio for flowers and butterflies, and look through binoculars or scopes at the viewing pod to see different wild areas around the refuge. See which things you can touch and which things you cannot. You can then write down some of these things, or draw pictures in your scrapbook.



41. "We Took a Field Trip"

Have the troop take a field trip to the National Wildlife Visitor Center. Write or draw what you learn about in your scrapbook.

43. "These Daisy Girl Scouts Are Painting"

Bring paints and paper to the refuge and paint pictures of your favorite animal or setting here at the refuge. (Note: Paints should be used outdoors only.)

46. "Shapes We Found on Our Nature Walk"

Walk the trails at the refuge and look for different shapes. Look all around, up, down, and at things large and small.

Program Activity Cards:

8. Alphabet Hike

Hike the trails on the refuge and find things that start with each letter of the alphabet in order of the letters.

15. Imitate Nature

Visit the outdoor education area by Goose Pond. Look for things that you can imitate on your way to Goose Pond. Use the field and bleachers for your activity.

37. Portable Investigation Kit

Assemble your kit based on the suggestions given in the book. Then bring it to the Refuge and do some investigating!



43. Water Studies

Visit the refuge and ask a staff member if you can get a water sample from one of the impoundments. Look at the different life that lives in the water by the edge and from deeper in the impoundment.

57. Camouflage

Use the area by Goose Pond to play this game of camouflage "hide and seek".

59. - 62. Outdoor Sights, Sounds, Feeling, Smell

All four of these activities can be done here at the refuge.

National Wildlife Visitor Center Scout Program Links Brownie Girl Scouts

[\(Back to Program Link Index\)](#)

Requirements filled according to 1999 Try-Its for Brownie Girl Scouts book.

Animals:

2. Understanding Animals

At the Patuxent Research Refuge you can see wildlife in many different places. Look through the binoculars and scopes in the viewing pod, take a tram tour, or go for a walk on one of our trails to find wildlife. Bring along a field guide to help you identify what you see.

4. Looks Mean Something

Walk through the Wisdom of Wildness exhibit to find all different kinds of animals. Take a look at what kind of habitat they live in.

Careers:

3. Women Pioneers

In the past, wildlife management and many other science fields have had more men working in them than women. Today, however, many of the people working in the environmental field (including at the Patuxent Research Refuge) are women. Talk to a female staff member or volunteer about working with wildlife, take a tram tour, or watch the interactive videos to learn more about what researchers do. The book shop also has several books about Rachel Carson. She was a pioneer in the field of environmental conservation.

Citizen Near & Far:

5. Calling All Helpers

Look at the Global Concerns part of the exhibit for information on problems facing our environment. Many different problems, their causes, and some solutions are discussed in this exhibit. You may want to ask an adult to help you go through the information to find what you need. Then pick one of the problems to discuss at your AUnited Nations@ meeting.

Earth & Sky:

3. Going, Going, Gone

The Land Exploitation exhibit in the Global Concerns area describes soil erosion and what can be done about it. Take the tram tour and ask the interpreter before the tour starts to point out examples of how erosion is affecting Harding Spring Pond. Walk on the trails and look near streams and on slopes for evidence of erosion.

5. Creatures of the Air

Some good places to observe flying animals on the refuge are at the viewing areas, along the trails, in the woods, from the tram, or from the viewing pod in the Wisdom of Wildness exhibit. Be quiet and still so you don't scare the animals away.



Eco-Explorer:

1. Exploring Nature

Many living and non-living items can be found around the National Wildlife Visitor Center. Hike a trail or take the tram tour to see what you can find. Try not to touch the objects and be sure to leave them where they are.

5. Speak Up for Animals!

The On the Brink exhibit at the National Wildlife Visitor Center showcases fourteen wildlife species which are endangered. Pick one of the species to learn more about. The Delmarva fox squirrel, piping plover, and Indiana bat are endangered species that live in Maryland.

6. Helping Wildlife

Many of the suggested activities are things we do here on the refuge. Stop by to see how to do these projects and learn other ways you can help.

Outdoor Adventurer:

3. Day Hike

The Patuxent Research Refuge has many trails for you to enjoy. Stop by the front desk to get a trail map and more information.

5. Touch, Smell, Listen

The trails are a great place to use your senses. Remember to watch out for poison ivy and stay on the trails. Do not remove leaves or plants and if you do pick something up be sure to put it back where you found it.

Plants:

2. Plant Rubbings

Walk on the trails to find things to make rubbings from. Be sure to stay on the trails to avoid ticks and poison ivy.

4. Leaf Hunt

There are many different kinds of trees on the refuge, and the fall can be a great time to find leaves on the ground. Be sure to put them back after you are finished looking at them.



Watching Wildlife:

6. Outdoor Shopping

Use the viewing pod in the National Wildlife Visitor Center to observe different kinds of wildlife. Pay attention to where they are living and what they are eating.

National Wildlife Visitor Center

Scout Program Links

Junior Girl Scouts

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Requirements filled according to the 2001 Junior Girl Scout Badge Book.

Earth Connections:

1. You can make your study area at the Patuxent Research Refuge. Ask a staff member or volunteer about where the best place would be. The Environmental Education Pavilion is a great place to study ecosystems.
2. The Wildlife Conservation Tram Tour is a great way to see succession happening right on the refuge. Ask the tram guide to show you specific areas where succession occurs, such as meadows turning into forests.
3. The Forests of Patuxent Trail Guide, available at the front desk, points out several species of trees on our trails. Walk the trails around the National Wildlife Visitor Center to see many other species as well.
4. Look along the trails for tree stumps to read the tree rings.
5. Bring your own game or ask a staff member or volunteer about games that show plant and animal relationships. The area by Goose Pond is good for playing games.
6. The Patuxent Research Refuge is one of over 500 refuges across the country set up to protect wildlife and plants. The refuge is unique in that it was specifically created to support wildlife research. Take the tram tour or ask a volunteer or staff member about research that has been done here and how we use it to help wildlife.
7. The On the Brink exhibit shows several species which are endangered, many because they could not adapt to changes people made in their environment. The Sea Otter pod shows how sea otters are adapted to their aquatic environments and the Canvasback Duck pod shows how they adapted to changes in their food when people impacted their habitat.
8. The Bayscape garden at the National Wildlife Visitor Center is planted with all native plant species. Ask a staff member or volunteer to tell you more about the species planted there.
9. Choose a study area on the refuge. Remember that areas will change with the seasons, and some plants and animals will only be found there at certain times.

10. The Global Concerns exhibit discusses seven environmental problems that are occurring worldwide. Use them to learn more about each problem and ways to fix them.

Eco-Action:

8. Volunteers are always welcome at the Patuxent Research Refuge. We have many projects you can participate in to help improve the environment. Stop by the front desk to get more information about what you can do to help.

10. A well-known pioneer in environmental concerns was Rachel Carson. The information she wrote in her books came from research done at Patuxent Research Refuge. Look in the bookstore at the National Wildlife Visitor Center or check out a book from your library about Rachel Carson to learn more about her work in helping the environment. The visitor center also offers a movie on the life of Rachel Carson. Call ahead for movie schedules.



Finding Your Way:

6. Make a map of the National Wildlife Visitor Center or one of the trails on the refuge.

Hiker:

7. Explore the trails around the National Wildlife Visitor Center or at the Patuxent Research Refuge North Tract. Ask a staff member or volunteer to help you identify the animals and plants you saw.

10. The Patuxent Research Refuge has 5 miles of trails at the National Wildlife Visitor Center (301-497-5760) and 20 miles at the North Tract (301-776-3090). Call or stop by for more information.

Plants and Animals:

9. The Patuxent Research Refuge has several plant and animal species which can be considered pests. Ask a staff member or volunteer to tell you more about some of them such as the deer tick, European starling, poison ivy, and chestnut blight.

Wildlife:

2. There are many plants and animals on the Patuxent Research Refuge which are perfect for observing and using for art. Pick a spot and bring along your pencils and camera.

5. Poisonous plants and animals which may be on the refuge include poison ivy, poison oak, poison sumac, and black widow spiders. Learn to identify these and how you can avoid them. Poison ivy is the one to be the most aware of here.

6. The On the Brink exhibit shows several endangered and recovering species. Species from Maryland include the Indiana Bat, Piping plover, and Delmarva Fox squirrel.

7. The viewing pod in the exhibits has several binoculars and spotting scopes you can use to view wildlife on Lake Redington.

8. There are many species that live on and migrate through the Patuxent Research Refuge during all seasons of the year. Ask at the front desk for a list of species found here. Bring a field guide and take a hike to find birds and animals to identify.

10. Pick an animal that you can easily observe at the Patuxent Research Refuge. (Remember some animals are shy and secretive and not easily observed.) Chose one that you will be able to watch for some time to see what it likes to eat, where it spends its time, and other behaviors.



Your Outdoor Surroundings:

5. If you like outdoor photography, hiking or bird-watching, the Patuxent Research Refuge is a great place to try it out. Ask a staff member or volunteer if there is someone who can help you get started.

6. There are many different objects that can be found on the refuge to be classified. Remember to stay on the trails and if you pick anything up, put it back where you found it.
7. Many women working or volunteering at the Patuxent Research Refuge spend their time mostly outdoors. Call or stop by the National Wildlife Visitor Center (301-497-5760) to arrange an interview.
8. Many small nature objects can be found to try this fun activity. Remember to put items back where you found them after you finish using them.
9. At the National Wildlife Visitor Center you can enjoy the trails by taking along The Forests of Patuxent Guide. These guides point out interesting features along the trails and are available at the front desk. Also, try a sensory trail to see what kinds of things you can see, hear, touch and smell.

Rocks Rock:

2. Take a hike on the trails to see how erosion is occurring. Also, take the tram tour and ask the tram guide to show you how erosion is effecting Harding Spring Pond.
4. The Environmental Education Pavilion has soil corers which can be used to examine the different layers of soil. Call the National Wildlife Visitor Center (301-497-5760) ahead of time to learn more about using this equipment.
6. Volunteers are always welcome at the Patuxent Research Refuge. Stop by the front desk to get more information about any trail maintenance you can help with.

National Wildlife Visitor Center Scout Program Links Cadette and Senior Girl Scouts

[\(Back to Program Link Index\)](#)

Requirements filled according to the 1997 Interest Projects for Cadette and Senior Girl Scouts.

LIFE SKILLS

Travel

Skill Builders

2. Plan a day trip to Patuxent Research Refuge. Read pages 132-134 in *A Resource Book for Senior Girl Scouts*, and answer the questions on pages 133-134. With the help of refuge staff or volunteers, research recreational opportunities at the refuge including costs, activities, educational programs, attractions, seasonal events, special events, exhibits, and volunteering. Keep a trip journal of your visit.

NATURE, SCIENCE, AND HEALTH

All About Birds

Skill Builders

2. Birds can be identified by size, shape, body patterns, color, flight patterns, bird calls, and behavior. Walk the trails and visit the Wildlife Viewing Areas at the refuge with a field guide to birds. Observe, identify, and make notes about five birds.

3. Learn to identify five birds by their songs or call notes. Walk the trails of the National Wildlife Visitor Center and identify five birds by their calls.

4. The Wildlife Telltales exhibit in the National Wildlife Visitor Center shows the migratory habits of 4 species of birds. Study this exhibit to learn more in-depth information about these birds.

6. Visit the National Wildlife Visitor Center and choose a bird mount, painting, exhibit, or look at illustrations in the book store or in a field guide. Then create an original work of art, such as a woodcarving, drawing, painting, or series of photographs of the bird display of your choice.

Technology

1. The viewing pod in the National Wildlife Visitor Center has binoculars and scopes that you can use to look for birds around the lake.
2. Contact the National Wildlife Visitor Center and find a date for a goose round-up or a bird banding outing. Discuss with a staff or volunteer the benefits of banding, methods of banding and recording, and ways the Patuxent Research Refuge uses bird banding as a form of wildlife management.
4. The Patuxent Research Refuge has been conducting research on these environmental problems for many years. For example, groundbreaking research has been done here on the pesticide DDT and its effect on birds. Today, Patuxent has been a center for whooping crane research and captive breeding. Stop by the National Wildlife Visitor Center to learn more about the projects we are currently conducting.
5. Visit the National Wildlife Visitor Center and explore the viewing pod and Bayscape area. Use the scopes and binoculars to watch for waterfowl and nesting birds. Record what you see. Find a staff member or volunteer to help you identify birds that you may see. Focus on at least five different birds.

Service Projects

2. The Patuxent Research Refuge is a great place to see birds. Take a hike on one of our trails or take a tram tour to see many different species.
3. Bird surveys are conducted throughout the year at the Patuxent Research Refuge. Ask for more information about surveys you can participate in.
5. Volunteers are always welcome at the Patuxent Research Refuge. Stop by the front desk to get more information about what you can do to help.

Career Explorations

4. There are many positions at Patuxent that involve birding and ornithology (the study of birds). Arrange to shadow the biological technician, refuge biologist, wildlife biology intern, or go on a bird walk. Call ahead for details. Learn about the training needed, hiring process, and tasks of the job.

Eco-Action

Skill Builders

2. Contact a local community representative to learn more about what environmental concerns there are in your neighborhood. Do research at your local library to find out more about your local and national laws concerning the environment. Explore the Global Concerns exhibit at the

National Wildlife Visitor Center to learn about environmental problems. Then try and discover what Patuxent Research Refuge and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are doing to conserve the environment as well as wildlife.

4. Rachel Carson is a famous environmentalist who has ties to the Patuxent Research Refuge. She is most well known for her book *Silent Spring* about the effects of pesticides on the environment. Learn more about her at the National Wildlife Visitor Center.

Service Projects

2. Volunteers are always welcome at the Patuxent Research Refuge for a variety of different projects. Stop by the front desk to get more information about what you can do to help.

Career Exploration

3. Interview three people with different jobs at Patuxent Research Refuge and/or the National Wildlife Visitor Center. Learn about careers related to the environment and/or the law. Find out educational requirements and nature of working in each area. Come with prepared questions, and call ahead for contacts.

4. A well-known pioneer in environmental concerns was Rachel Carson. The information she wrote in her books came from research done at Patuxent Research Refuge. Look in the bookstore at the National Wildlife Visitor Center or check out a book from your library about Rachel Carson to learn more about her work in helping the environment. The visitor center also offers a movie on the life of Rachel Carson. Call ahead for movie schedules.

5. Identify three or more degree programs in fields concerned with the environment. Visit the National Wildlife Visitor Center and speak with someone that was once enrolled in a similar program. How are the programs alike, and how are they different?

From Shore to Sea

Skill Builders

5. The Global Concerns exhibit in the National Wildlife Visitor Center details seven major environmental problems worldwide. Use this exhibit to learn about ocean pollution and global warming.

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Wildlife

Skill Builders

1. Visit the National Wildlife Visitor Center and find an area such as a forest, pond, or a meadow that you could use as a field ecology site. Visit the site and take some time to make some observations. Create a nature journal entry recording what you see, smell, feel, or even think. Record the date, time, temperature and weather conditions. You may add sketches also.
2. Visit the Bayscape patio area, and the various trails at the National Wildlife Visitor Center. Identify as many of the flowers, shrubs, and trees as you can. Sketch some of them in a field notebook. Use field guides to identify them and record the names alongside of the sketches in your notebook.
3. Select a field ecology site at Patuxent Research Refuge. Identify and record the names of animals you see or see evidence of. Learn how to identify at least three different sets of tracks. Use field guides to help you identify the various animals and animal tracks. You may want to take pictures of some of the animals and tracks also.
4. Visit a field ecology site at the National Wildlife Visitor Center. Record the date, time, location, and weather conditions at the time of your observation. Create an ethogram (a detailed record of animal behavior) by putting down categories of the animals behavior in the form of a table. Note which behavior they do, and how long they do it for. Also note how the animal interacts with others around it.

Technology

1. Visit Patuxent Research Refuge and explore the exhibits at the National Wildlife Visitor Center. Pay close attention to the explanations of how each animal or topic was/is researched. Note the equipment that is being used, and how it is different for researching animals of the air, land, and water. Watch the videos in the Lifecycle exhibits, and explore the research methods used in the Habitat Exhibits.

Service Projects

2. Contact the National Wildlife Visitor Center to find out how you can volunteer your services. This could involve gardening, putting up bird boxes, trail monitoring, cleaning a stream, or assisting at the visitor center. Involve other Girl Scouts in the project. Record your results as you carry out the project.

Career Explorations

1. Explore some careers involving wildlife and the environment. Contact the refuge to schedule a time where you could meet with an employee to discuss and interview how they got involved in the field, what their training/schooling was like, and what a typical day is like.
2. Interview an environmental education intern at the National Wildlife Visitor Center. This internship combines wildlife and people. Explore ways in which the public and private groups can learn about what Patuxent Research Refuge is doing to conserve wildlife.

3. Arrange to shadow a Patuxent Research Refuge biologist, wildlife biology intern, or biological technician for part of the day to learn about their jobs.

THE ARTS AND HISTORY

Museum Discovery

Skill Builders

1. Visit the National Wildlife Visitor Center. Ask if someone is available for a behind the scenes tour. Determine the missions, objectives, strengths, and weaknesses of the National Wildlife Visitor Center. Discuss with others what you liked most about the exhibits, and how you would change it to meet the needs of different age groups, cultures, or people with disabilities.

4. Visit the National Wildlife Visitor Center and check and see if it is accessible to people with disabilities. What technologies are used to aid people with disabilities? After your visit make a list of recommendations on how you would improve the facilities.

Career Explorations

1. Visit the National Wildlife Visitor Center and locate jobs or duties that people may not notice right away. Museums and exhibits require lots of duties that the public may never see. Look around and make a list of these. For example; cleaning exhibits, running/fixing AV equipment, educational programs, developing handouts and pamphlets, working in the book store etc. Try and see how many different jobs you could find in a museum.

Women Through Time

Career Exploration

4. A well-known woman pioneer in environmental concerns was Rachel Carson. The information she wrote in her books came from research done at Patuxent Research Refuge. Look in the bookstore at the National Wildlife Visitor Center or check out a book from your library about Rachel Carson to learn more about her work in helping the environment. The visitor center also offers a movie on the life of Rachel Carson. Call ahead for movie schedules.

SPORTS AND RECREATION

Backpacking

Service Projects

4. The Patuxent Research Refuge has many environmental projects ongoing throughout the year. Stop by the National Wildlife Visitor Center to learn about ways in which you can participate.

Career Exploration

2. Arrange to shadow a Patuxent Research Refuge biologist, wildlife biology or environmental education intern, or biological technician for part of the day to learn about their jobs. You may also want to speak to volunteers about the special role they play in outdoor recreation on the refuge.

Camping

Service Projects

2. Offer your services to maintain a hiking, biking, or nature trail on the refuge. Learn the proper ways to cut unwanted growth, control erosion, and divert water off the trail.

National Wildlife Visitor Center Scout Program Links Venturing Ranger

[\(Back to Program Link Index\)](#)

Requirements filled according to the 1998 Rangering Guidebook.

Ecology

#1 Visit the Chesapeake Bay Habitat exhibit at the National Wildlife Visitor Center to learn more about the watershed in this area.

#2 The Patuxent Research Refuge has many different habitats for you to study, including wetlands, lakes, forests, and meadows.

#3 Take a field trip to the Patuxent Wildlife Refuge. Take the tram tour or talk to a staff member or volunteer to learn more about each unique habitat.

Fishing

#8 At the Patuxent Research Refuge, both National Fishing Week and National Hunting and Fishing Day are celebrated with special events. Contact the National Wildlife Visitor Center to find out dates for these events and how you can help.

Hunting

#1a For more information about hunter education courses for Patuxent Research Refuge, contact the Meade Natural Heritage Association at (301) 317-3825.

#3b Contact the National Wildlife Visitor Center (301-497-5760) for more information about the National Hunting and Fishing Day programs and ways to get involved.

#3c Stop by or call the North Tract Visitor Contact station 301/776-3090 to arrange an interview with a conservation officer. During hunting season, check with the Hunting Control Station (301) 317-3819 to observe or assist there.

Wildlife

#2a The Patuxent Research Refuge has many areas which are suitable for year round study. The wetland, lake, forest, and meadow habitats all have several species of wildlife and plants for your study.

#3a There are many plant and wildlife species that can be found in different areas of the refuge. Ask a staff member or volunteer to help you choose a species to study.

#4 Volunteers are always welcome at the Patuxent Research Refuge. We have many projects you can participate in to benefit plants and wildlife. Stop by the front desk to get more information about what you can do to help.

National Wildlife Visitor Center

Scout Program Links

Wolf Cub Scout

[\(Back to Program Link Index\)](#)

Requirements filled according to the 1998 Wolf Cub Scout Book

The Wolf Trail:

Your Living World* ([See also World Conservation Award at bottom of Wolf segment](#))

7b. It takes a lot of energy to make glass, cans, and paper products. You can help save energy by collecting these items for use again. Write the name of the recycling center closest to you. Find out what items you can save and send to this center.

Gather information about pollution and recycling in The Wisdom of Wilderness exhibits.

Family Fun

10b. Plan a walk. Go to a park or a wooded area, or visit a zoo or museum with your family.

Come and visit the refuge and walk on our trails through different habitats. There are over 25 miles of trails at the National Wildlife Visitor Center and North Tract. Maps are available at both locations.

The Arrow Point Trail:

Birds* ([See also World Conservation Award at bottom of Wolf segment](#))

13a. Make a list of all the birds you saw in a week and tell where you saw them (field, forest, marsh, yard, or park).

Plan to visit the refuge either once during your bird watching week, or visit everyday for a week and make a list of the birds you see. A bird list is available at the National Wildlife Visitor Center and North Tract. Use a bird field guide to identify the birds you see.

Outdoor Adventure

18b. With a parent, help plan and run a family or den outing.

Plan a trip to the refuge. Call ahead or check the website (patuxent.fws.gov) and see if there are any activities planned that you and your family or den can attend.

Fishing* (See also World Conservation Award at bottom of Wolf segment)

19a. Point out five fish.

Visit the North Tract of the refuge and ask a staff member where you can go to see some fish.

19b. Rig a pole with the right kind of line and hook. Attach a bobber and sinker, if you need them. Then go fishing.

Once you have your supplies and have assembled your fishing pole, come to the refuge and ask a staff member where you can fish.

Call before you come to check on any current regulations (301-776-3090).

19c. Fish with members of your family or a grown-up. Bait your hook and do your best to catch a fish.

Visit the refuge and talk with a staff member about where you can fish. Ask the staff member what kind of fish you might catch there.

Call before you come to check on any current regulations (301-776-3090).

*** World Conservation Award**

Your Living World, Birds & Fishing are also part of the Cub Scout World Conservation Award.

You may be able to complete the requirement to have the pack or den participate in a conservation project during our Earth Day activities. Earth Day is held every year in April. Call the main number (301-497-5763) to find out if the current year's program is applicable for your pack or den.

National Wildlife Visitor Center

Scout Program Links

Bear Cub Scout

[\(Back to Program Link Index\)](#)

Requirements filled according to the 1998 Bear Cub Scout Book

The Bear Trail:

Sharing Your World with Wildlife * ([See World Conservation Award at bottom of Bear segment](#))

5a. Choose a bird or animal that you like and find out how it lives. Make a poster showing what you have learned.

Look for birds out on the refuge, find one you like, watch it in its natural environment. Take a bird tour on the refuge, or study the birds in The Wisdom of Wildness exhibit.

5c. Explain what a wildlife conservation officer does.

Visit the refuge and speak to one of our staff and learn about the different roles conservation officers have.

5d. Visit one of the following: Zoo, Nature Center, Wildlife Refuge, Game Preserve.

Come visit the refuge and visitor center. Take a tram tour or walk the trails. Watch the Discovering the Wisdom of Wildness orientation video to learn about the National Wildlife Refuge System and Patuxent's mission.

5e. Name one animal that has become extinct in the last 100 years. Tell why animals become extinct. Name one animal that is on the endangered species list.

Talk to a staff member at the refuge about endangered and extinct species. Visit the On the Brink section of our The Wisdom of Wildness exhibits. This section showcases several endangered and threatened animals.

Family Outdoor Adventures

12b. Go on a hike with your family

Come and visit the refuge and walk on our trails through different habitats. There are over 25 miles of trails at the National Wildlife Visitor Center and North Tract. Maps are available at both locations.

*** World Conservation Award**

Sharing Your World with Wildlife is also part of the Cub Scout World Conservation Award.

You may be able to complete the requirement to have the pack or den participate in a conservation project during our Earth Day activities. Earth Day is held every year in April. Call the National Wildlife Visitor Center (301-497-5760) to find out if the current year=s program is applicable for your pack or den.

National Wildlife Visitor Center Scout Program Links Webelos

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Requirements filled according to the 1998 Webelos Scout Book

Outdoor Group:

Forester* ([also see World Conservation Award at bottom of Webelos segment](#))

2. Draw a picture to show the plant and tree layers of a forest in your area. Label the different layers. (If you don't live in an area that has forests, choose an area that does and draw a picture of that forest.)

Draw a picture of a forest on the Refuge and show the plant and tree layers.

3. Identify six forest trees common to the area where you live. Tell how both wildlife and humans use them. (If you don't live in a region that has forests, read about one type of forest and name six of its trees and their uses)

Walk on the trails and use a field guide about trees or use our new [Forests of Patuxent Discovery Hike guide](#) to help you identify six different trees on the Refuge. Identify and observe any wildlife using them, and how they are using them. Look in the Global Concerns exhibit to learn about the ways humans use trees.

4. Identify six forest plants (other than trees) that are useful to wildlife. Tell which animals use them and for what purposes.

Walk on the trails and use a field guide about plants to help you identify six forest plants on the Refuge. Use a guide book or ask a staff member or volunteer about what kinds of wildlife use them.

Naturalist* ([also see World Conservation Award at bottom of Webelos segment](#))

4. Visit a museum of natural history, nature center or zoo with your family, den or pack. Tell what you saw.

Visit the Patuxent Research Refuge's National Wildlife Visitor Center. Explore the exhibits, walk the trails or take a tram tour.

6. Learn about the bird flyways closest to your home. Find out which birds use the flyways closest to your home.

Look at the flyway section of The Wisdom of Wildness exhibit at the National Wildlife Visitor Center. Note which birds use the flyways closest to your home.

8. Watch six wild animals (snakes, turtles, fish, birds, or mammals) in the wild. Describe the kind of place (forest, field, marsh, yard or park) where you saw them. Tell what they were doing.

Walk the trails and observe wildlife in the forest, meadow and water habitats.

9. Give examples of a producer, consumer and a decomposer in the food chain of an ecosystem, one way humans have changed the balance of nature, and how you can help protect the balance of nature.

A producer is an organism that makes its own food, like a plant. A consumer eats producers and decomposers break down dead producers and consumers. Walk through our trails and exhibits to identify different kinds of producers, consumers and decomposers. Learn how humans have changed the balance of nature and how you can protect it by watching our Refuge video and exploring The Wisdom of Wildness exhibit.

*** World Conservation Award**

Forester and Naturalist are also part of the Cub Scout World Conservation Award.

You may be able to complete the requirement to have the pack or den participate in a conservation project during our Earth Day activities. Earth Day is held every year in April. Call the main number (301-497-5763) to find out if the current year's program is applicable for your pack or den.

National Wildlife Visitor Center Scout Program Links Boy Scout

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Refer to the 2000 Boy Scout Requirements book to see the specific requirements.

Second Class Rank Requirements

#5 Visit the refuge to find and identify at least ten types of wild animals. Make sure to bring a journal and/or camera to document the animals or evidence that you find. Remember, take only photographs, leave only footprints.

First Class Rank Requirements

#6 Visit the Bayscape areas at the National Wildlife Visitor Center to identify at least 10 types of native plants.

Art

#3 Visit the National Wildlife Visitor Center or the Patuxent Research Refuge North Tract. Hike a trail and choose a view to record in an art medium.

#6 Explore the trails at the Patuxent Research Refuge to find a subject for your art.

Bird Study

#1 The Wildlife Telltales Exhibit in the National Wildlife Visitor Center explains how studying birds can give warning signs of changes in the environment. The Getting a Handle on Habitats display shows how loss of habitat affects bird populations and how they are monitored.

#3 The Viewing Pod has binoculars and spotting scopes you can use to observe birds on Lake Redington.

#5 Look for birds in the wetland, lake, meadow, and forest habitats near the National Wildlife Visitor Center. Bring a field guide along to help identify them. A list of common birds on the refuge is available from the front desk.

#6 You may want to listen to recordings of common birds before you go to help you identify what you hear in the field. Walk the trails or take a tram tour to see and hear many species of birds.

#7a The Patuxent Research Refuge offers many birding trips throughout the year. Check our current schedule to find out about the next one.

Camping

#9. Primitive camping can be done at the Patuxent Research Refuge North Tract. Call the North Tract Contact Station at 301-776-3090 for more information.

Cycling

#8. Cycling can be done on the Patuxent Research Refuge North Tract. Check at the Contact Station for more information about which trails are open and the most suitable.

Disability Awareness

#4 The National Wildlife Visitor Center and grounds were created to be accessible to as many people as possible. The Cash Lake fishing pier, 2 mile of the trails, and the visitor center are all accessible to wheelchairs and strollers. Weekend movies are shown with closed captioning for the enjoyment of everyone. Compare the visitor center to other public areas. Talk to a volunteer or staff member if you have any suggestions on how to make the visitor center more accessible to everyone.

Environmental Science

#2 Many of the terms can be found in the Global Concerns and Lifecycles exhibits at the National Wildlife Visitor Center.

#3 Background information for the following experiments can be found in the National Wildlife Visitor Center.

(a) Ecology

(2) Global Concerns - Global Warming

(c) Water Pollution

(2) Global Concerns - Ocean Pollution

(d) Land Pollution

(1) Global Concerns - Land Exploitation

(e) Endangered Species

(1) and (2) On the Brink shows 14 different species nearing either extinction or recovery. The Delmarva Fox Squirrel, Indiana Bat and Piping Plover are endangered species found in Maryland.

#8 Explore The Wisdom of Wildness exhibits for lots of information on how people work in environmental fields. Watch the videos in the Life Cycles exhibit to learn what researchers are doing to help wildlife. Talk to a volunteer about how they work with the environment.

Fish and Wildlife Management

#1 Take a tram tour or talk to a staff member or volunteer about the meaning of fish and wildlife conservation and management. Look in the Wisdom of Wildness exhibit to learn about many types of conservation and management practices.

#2 Explore the Global Concerns and Handle on Habitats exhibits to learn about environmental problems.

#3 Take a tram tour to learn about efforts to help wildlife. Talk to a staff member or volunteer about things you can do in your own yard to help wildlife, such as putting up bird boxes, planting wild flowers and trees, and recycling.

#4 Go on a tram tour to learn about wildlife management practices being used at Patuxent. Also talk to a staff member or volunteer for more information about things going on around the visitor center.

#5a Ask at the information desk for instructions on how to make a bluebird box.

#6a Observe 25 species of wildlife on the refuge. Bring field guides and binoculars to help you identify the different animals that you see. Try looking in a variety of habitats to find different kinds of animals. Also look for animal signs such as homes, tracks, or scat.

Fishing

#7 Contact the National Wildlife Visitor Center (301- 497-5760) or North Tract Contact Station (301- 776-3090) to inquire about fishing opportunities on the refuge.

Forestry

#1 The trails around the National Wildlife Visitor Center and the Patuxent Research Refuge North Tract have many tree and shrub species that you can identify. Be sure to bring a field identification book along. Ask a staff member or volunteer to show you where you can see succession happening.

#2b Walk along the trails and look for stumps to observe. You may want to sketch or photograph the ring pattern. It may be interesting to research weather patterns for past years and try to determine which rings correspond to years with droughts or good rainfall.

#3a Look in the Deforestation section of the Global Concerns exhibit to learn about the importance of trees.

#3b Look in the Chesapeake Bay section on the Handle on Habitats exhibit to learn about local water supplies.

#6ab Observe the Deforestation and Land Exploitation sections of the Global Concerns exhibit to learn about specific problems that damage forests.

#7a Patuxent Research Refuge has many volunteer opportunities available to help in the management of our refuge. Inquire at the front desk for more information.

Hiking

#5 The Patuxent Research Refuge has many hiking trails available. Inquire at the National Wildlife Visitor Center or the North Tract Contact Station for more information.

Mammal Study

#3a The Patuxent Research Refuge has many different habitats available to study including wetlands, meadows, and forests.

#3b There are many types of mammals that live on the refuge, but many may be difficult to view. Walk the trails and look for mammal signs such as homes, food remains, droppings, or tracks. You may want to research the different types of mammals found in this area so you will have an idea of what to look for. You may want to bring a field guide to help you identify what you see.

Nature

#1 Observe the animals and displays in the On the Brink and Life Cycles exhibits to learn how animals (particularly the Red-cockaded woodpecker, Puerto Rican parrot, and Canvasback duck) depend on plants. Otters depend on plants also, but in an indirect way. Find out how.

Birds

(a) Look for birds in the wetland, meadow and forest habitats near the National Wildlife Visitor Center. Bring a field guide along to help identify them. A list of common birds found on the refuge is also available at the front desk.

(b) Ask at the information desk for instructions on how to make a bluebird box.

Mammals

(a) Ask at the front desk of the National Wildlife Visitor Center for a list of mammals found on the refuge. There are many types of mammals that live on the refuge but many may be difficult to view. Walk the trails and look for signs such as homes, food remains, droppings, or tracks.

Fish

(a) Contact the National Wildlife Visitor Center (301- 497-5760) or North Tract Contact Station (301- 776-3090) to inquire about fishing opportunities on the refuge.

Plants

(a) Walk the trails of the Patuxent Research Refuge to look for trees, shrubs, and other plants. Bring along a field guide to help identify them.

Soil and Water Conservation

2ab Look at the Land Exploitation and Deforestation sections of the Global Concerns exhibit for information on soils.

#4ad Observe the Chesapeake Bay section of the Handle on Habitats exhibit to learn about watersheds and river basins.

#5cde Explore the Global Concerns and Handle on Habitats exhibits to learn how human-environment interactions effect the land and different types of habitats.

#6ab Look at the Ocean Pollution section of the Global Concerns exhibit and the Chesapeake Bay and Central Valley of California sections of Handle on Habitats exhibit for information on water pollution.

#7a3 The National Wildlife Visitor Center is located on the Patuxent Research Refuge, a National Wildlife Refuge. Take a tram tour to learn about how the waste water from the Visitor Center is treated and how erosion is controlled near Lake Redington.

Hornaday Award

Complete the required merit badges. Many of them can be worked on at the National Wildlife Visitor Center.

World Conservation Award

The badges required for this award can be worked on at the National Wildlife Visitor Center.